



State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503 FAX (603) 271-2867



City of Keene
c/o Thomas Dutton
580 Main Street
Keene, NH 03431

July 24, 2000
Letter of Deficiency
DAM #126.01

RE: Ashuelot River Dam, Keene

Dear Mr. Dutton

The Department of Environmental Services, Dam Bureau (DES) consistently strives to enhance the safety of dams in New Hampshire through its dam safety program. One of the many instruments that plays a part in reaching this goal is our inspection program. DES is forwarding this correspondence to you to advise you that in accordance with RSA 482:12 and Env-Wr 502.02, an inspection of the subject dam was conducted on May 11, 2000. During this visual inspection and/or file review, the following deficiencies were observed:

There was brush growing along the left upstream and downstream sides of the left abutment/gate sections;

2. There was significant seepage through the downstream stonewall of the left and right gate sluiceways as indicated on the attached digital photos. This seepage was noted in the Army core of engineers Phase I inspection report dated December 1980. The seepage has most likely contributed to the sinkholes observed in past inspection. There were no sinkholes observed during this inspection;

There was no operation and maintenance plan on file with the DES; and

4. The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) remains unfinished at this time.

DES believes that the above deficiencies can be corrected by performing the following items as indicated:

October 1, 2000:

Remove the brush from the upstream and downstream sides of the left abutment/gate section;

2. Investigate the source of the seepage through the gate sluiceways and provide a plan to our office to significantly reduce or eliminate the seepage within a period of one year;
3. The DES is requesting that all dam owners prepare and submit a written operational procedure plan. The plan should describe the control of impoundment levels, monitoring and maintenance procedures, and identify emergency contact personnel; and
4. Supply a schedule for the completion of the EAP.

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DES is requesting that you complete and submit the attached "Intent to Complete Repairs" form, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, that will provide for correction of the identified deficiencies by the date(s) indicated above. If you believe changes to the items of work or dates are necessary, please make the changes directly on the form and provide a brief explanation. We have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope for you to return this form.

Our intent in sending you this correspondence is to make you aware of items that DES believes warrant your attention to insure the continued safe operation of your dam. It is our hope that, through the submittal of the attached form and a commitment to keeping a well-maintained dam, you will voluntarily comply with the requested items of work. If we do not receive the intent form or a similarly adequate written reply, we will assume that you are in agreement with our findings and recommendations and DES will carry out follow-up inspections accordingly.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Letter of Deficiency or would like to be present at future inspections, please contact me at 271-3406, or write to the Water Division at the address listed on the top of the previous page.

Sincerely,

COPY

Dale F. Guinn
Dam Safety Engineer

Attachments Guideline for an O&M plan, DB13

cc: Gretchen Rule

Certified # 7099 3400 0002 9773 8594

DFG/was/h:/safety/wendy/lod/126-01lod.doc